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March 15, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON YOUTH SERVICES

The Committee on Youth Services held a meeting on March 15, 2007, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond and Rebekah Gewirtz also present and voting. Also present were Stella Downey from the Somerville Youth Programs and several members of the Somerville Youth Council, (SYC).

Members of the SYC addressed the committee, reviewing their goals and speaking about the most important issues facing Somerville's youth. SYC representatives outlined their recommendations for actions and spoke about the issue of summer jobs, stating that it was their hope that 200 jobs could be made available. SYC members told the committee that they are eager to get involved in the dynamics of politics in order to effectuate change and to have a voice in the community.

SYC members also expressed concerns about the appointment of the Superintendent of Schools and about the school budgeting process, stating that they had no input in either. They felt that more money was being spent on sports than on the arts.

Alderman Desmond's motion that the mayor provide information to the Youth Services Committee regarding summer employment for Somerville teens and address what action the Administration plans to employ, including feedback from employers to make the jobs stronger was approved.

Alderman Desmond's motion that a member of the Somerville Youth Council be present at all Youth Services Committee meetings was approved.

Alderman Desmond's motion that any public hearings regarding issues that might impact the city's youth be posted in the high school and on the city's public service channel and include an agenda to be forwarded to the Somerville Youth Council was approved.

The committee directed the Clerk of Committees to send a communication to the Superintendent of Schools informing him that the Board of Aldermen would like to send notices of public hearings to the high school, for posting, to inform students of these meetings and to seek their input and participation.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Youth Services

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Youth Services,
March 15, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk